A short Account

Of the UNION betwixt SWEDEN, DENMARK and NORWAY,

Which Commenced about the Year 1396, *and was broke about the Year* 1523. *Taken from* Puffendorf's *History of* Sweden p. 85. *Printed at* London 1702. *Fit to be perus'd by* Scotsmen *at this juncture; and Published for the benefit of such as have not access to the Book.*

AS soon as Queen *Margaret* had restored the Repose and Tranquillity of the three Northern Kingdoms, all methods were us'd to Unite them into one. To bring the *Swedes* over to this Project, 'twas represented unto them, that King *Albert* and his Son *Erick* wou'd never quite their Pretensions to the Crown of *Sweden*, whilst there was no appearance of any other Soveraign but Queen *Margaret*; and for that reason, 'twas absolutely necessary, they should speedily fall to the Election of a King to be her Successor in *Sweden* to cut of King *Albert*'s future hopes.

In the mean time, the Queen call'd to her Court *Henry* the young Duke of *Pomerania* her Sister's Son: And lest the Name of *Henry* should shock the *Swedes*, she altered it to *Erick*; and tho that Prince was very young, yet Queen *Margaret* by her plausible Tongue and fair Words accomplished her design, in so much that the *Swedes* chose this *Henry* or *Erick* for their King; with this proviso, that Queen *Margaret* should have the Administration of Affairs during his Minority.

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The next general Convention was held at *Calmair*, in which the Counsellors and most considerable Persons of the three Kingdoms were present. They Crown'd *Erick*, and he swore to maintain the Priviledges of the States.

At that Convention, there was a motion made for Uniting the three Northern Crowns, since the three Royal Lines were Extinct; and that was the only proper means, at one blow, to put an end to all the Troubles that annoy'd them. All these reasons were very likely, and might probably have Succeeded; If the *Danes* had not by this pretence, design'd the Oppression of *Sweden* and *Norway*. However, the Articles of that Union were drawn up; in which the States of the three Kingdoms mutually engaged upon Oath, to continue for ever under the Government of one King with these Proviso's: That each of them should retain their particular Name, Rights, Liberties, Priviledges, and good ancient Customs, without any manner of alteration. That the King should not have it in his power to introduce any New Laws and Rights in any of the three Kingdoms, without the consent of his Subjects. That each Kingdom should have a *Bailiff* and a *Marshal* to Protect them and administer Justice in the King's absence, as well as a Steward of the Howshold, to furnish Necessaries for the Sustenance of the Court, while the King resided in the respective Kingdom. That each Kingdom should have a Chancellor to take care of the Seals and whatever relates to the Chantery; besides a Chancellor of the Court, who shou'd always attend the King; That every Subject of both Kingdoms might have his Business at Court sooner dispatched. That the King shou'd be oblig'd to visit his three Kingdoms every Year, and stay four Moneths of the Year in each Kingdom, unless he was diverted by Affairs of greater Importance: In which case he should have it in his choice to reside in which of the

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three Kingdoms he pleased for that Year. That when the King went from one Kingdom to another, he shou'd carry with him two Councellors, that the Affairs of the Kingdom if any happen'd, might be expeded by them in conjunction with the Chancellor. That neither the King nor any of the Kingdoms, should be capable to engage in a War, without the knowledge and unanimous Consent of all the three Kingdoms. That when a War is unanimously resolv'd upon, the Troops sent from the two Kingdoms to the third, should be maintain'd by that Kingdom, after their arrival in its Territories. 'Twas farder resolv'd, that when the King died, the Bailiff or Marshal of the Kingdom in which his death happen'd, shou'd give speedy notice thereof to the two other Kingdoms, and exhort the Deputies appointed for Election, to proceed to the Election of a new King, which Deputies consisted of 40 Persons for each Kingdom. Another resolution was, If the deceast King left any lawful Male-Issue, he should be intituled to a preference in the Election; but if he died without such Issue, 'twas left to the 120 Deputies to pitch upon either Stranger or Native.

But the *Danes* never intended to stand to this Treaty, but only under that pretence to bring the *Swedes* under the yoke of their Government. It gave occasion to bloody Wars that lasted a long time. This UNION-TREATY was sign'd at first only by four Bishops and thirteen Gentlemen, upon condition that six Copies shou'd be engrost'd on Parchment and sign'd by the King, Queen, and the States of the three Kingdoms. But the *Swedes* and *Norvegians*, seeing thro' the Design, stood out a long time before they wou'd sign it. King *Erick* not being of Age, Queen *Margaret* had the Administration of Affairs; 'tis true during her Regency, she procured her Subjects Peace with their foreign Enemies, but from the very beginning the *Swedes* and *Norvegians* complain'd, she did not observe the Articles of

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the Treaty; for that she burdened her Subjects with heavy Taxes, and carried all the Money out of *Sweden* to be spent in *Denmark*, where she resided for the most part: And gave the Feiffs and Castles of the Kingdom to forreigners contrary to all their Laws and Privileges. But after all their complaints nothing was obtain'd, but her vain promises to give them Satisfaction. At last the whole mistery of the Union came to light, when Queen *Margaret* gave this Lesson to the young King *Erick*: *Sweden* will furnish you with Provisions, and *Norway* with Cloaths; but *Denmark* will be your only weapon of Defence.

In the sequel of this History, our Author gives us a full account of the consequences of this Union, how the *Swedes* were thereby subjected to all manner of Injustice, Oppression and Tyranny, being obliged to pay heavy Taxes, deprived without cause of their Lives and Fortunes; their Trade entirely ruin'd, and their Government and Execution of Laws put in the hand of a set of Men, who by their petulant and insolent carriage reduced them to despair. And particularly he mentions one *Jos. Erickson*, who had a great trust, and had butcher'd many People.

He likeways informs us, that these Oppressions oblig'd the *Swedes* to take Arms; and how after much Blood was spilt during the War which lasted near 127 Years, by the blessing of God, under the Conduct of *Gustavus Erickson* they Redeemd themselves, and expell'd *Christian*, by overturning the UNION, which was the cause of these Miseries

Fœlix, quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

That Nation's blest, that can a caveat take;
From the wrong Steps, which other Nations make.

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